

FAMILY NEWS OF LOVE - BY YOU!

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"The Stars In Their Courses Fought Against 'Somoza'!"

(Judges 5:20.)

Thrilling report by Reuben & Hannah Woodsman about their miraculous escape from Nicaragua before the bloody civil war!



In Jan. '78 we had been in Nicaragua for 7 months, and in our daily witnessing had seen the obvious dissatisfaction of the people with the 40-year reign of the Somoza family in their country! There had been a couple of small Sandinista guerilla attacks during our stay, and each time the people walked the streets in fear.

One morning, my husband Reuben was in prayer and received a short but strong prophecy against Somoza. Judges 5:20—"They fought from Heaven; the stars in their courses fought against 'Somoza'."

He also had a vision of the constellation Orion, the mighty hunter, fighting for us!

Then the next Monday morning on his way to work, the chief editor of "La Prensa", Pedro Joquin Chamorro, a known opponent of Somoza, was shot to death in his car! The general opinion of the people was that paid assassins of Somoza were sent to kill him, although it could not be proven.

From there began riots, burning of buildings and thousands of people mobbed his funeral. He became a national martyr. The following week the majority of all the businesses held a national strike asking for Somoza's resignation. But he had no plans of leaving! From then on, we could see that things would only become worse and that all-out civil war was inevitable if Somoza did not peacefully resign.

We had four children and another family, Henedad and Maria Towne, had one and one on the way. We all prayed whether to go or stay,

according to the faith of each. We decided to leave for the safety and well being of our four children. Some of the single brethren planned to stay on as long as they could till things got too hot.

Through FF'ing, we received much of the donations we needed to leave the country. We bought our bus tickets and planned to leave at 6 o'clock in the morning. Henedad and Maria were to be received by a Home in Costa Rica and we were going to Honduras.

That night we heard sirens for one hour straight in Managua. Then we got a phone call from a catcomber in Masaya that grenades were going off in that town and some fighting had broken out!

In the morning, we all got into taxis and took off for the bus station. Little did we know that fighting had broken out in Masaya and Rivas, which is at the border of Costa Rica. Maria and Henedad's bus never did arrive because of the fighting! They did manage to make it to the border somehow. When they arrived, the border was closed because of the fighting and they had to convince the border personnel to let them pass. Some brethren from Costa Rica had come to pick them up at the other side, God bless them!

Meanwhile on our bus ride to Honduras, we ran into a barricade of National Guard checking for guerillas fleeing the country. We all had to get out of the bus and pass through a line as the soldiers checked everyone's passport carefully. Later, on the bus radio we heard the news of the guerilla attacks and felt like we were leaving just in time!

When we got to the border, we had just enough money to pay border fees for our family of six. We had to call the Home and ask them to help pay our taxi fare. We were broke! God bless Levi and Hannah and the brethren for receiving us, big family and all, in our time of need! It really makes you appreciate your family when you really need them!

"We love you Lord, so we know you're going to work things together for our good, whoever it is You send to take over any country.—And You can keep each in peace and security as long as our kids are there, Lord.—And if the time comes You want to show us to leave, You'll certainly show us, and where to leave to. Thy will be done, have Thy way. Thank You Jesus! Praise the Lord!—Amen?" (from "The Battle For Africa" No. 391:112.)

We are presently in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, working out of our little pioneer Home. We have been here for eight months and the Lord has blessed us in so many ways! PTL! The Lord surely has to bring a quick end to Somoza before any more innocent civilians and children are slaughtered! One campesino (farmer) who is a prophet here in Honduras prophesied that Somoza would be assassinated in the coming year! God's Will be done!

Love, Reuben & Hannah

"God usually gives you a little warning, a little time to escape!—But if you drag your feet or put it off, like Lot's wife, you may not make it! Beware! Don't let the Devil fool you! Don't be caught unprepared! Gotcher Flee Bag ready?" ("The Shah's Last Resort" No. 733:19, 61)

Our Witness In Closed Countries!

We've just come from an area where I spent almost 1-1/2 months with the Homes (due to plan changes, travel delays, visa hassles, etc.). We felt that this time was really invaluable in that it gave us a much deeper and clearer understanding of the "Drop-in" works in "closed" countries. Despite the fact that we were intricately involved with the pioneering of these areas and in correspondence and counsel with the Family members involved out here for the past two years,

Still we felt this time helped us to get a deeper grasp of the sensitivities involved in working amongst Muslims, and especially in societies where not only Christian groups, but any foreign groups involved in any activity (other than business or government-associated projects) getting out any message whatsoever is completely non-existent and either banned by law or social pressure. By social pressure, we don't mean magazine sneers, but the strong likelihood of either immediate deportation at best, or physical assault at worst!

Really, it seems a person almost has to experience life in such a society for a while to really feel the social climate to realise what we're really dealing with. Witnessing to a real Muslim (we've been involved

over the years with many varieties) is one of the most patient types of spiritual feeding we've ever experienced. It makes the brainwashing of a Church school system look extremely light.

Dad has really expressed the spirit of Islam well in "The Fan" and "The Tangled Lines of Hejaz", and by his sample of handling Godahfi with such tact and patience, as well as the things he's said about our approach to the Muslim countries in the Letters, especially "Age of Pisces" and "Don't Drop Out—Drop In" and "Islam II".

Someone asked why we are afraid to give out literature, saying that "everyone in this country reads comics like ours; we could be giving out milky comics to the students". We're not sure if anyone answered this question, but we're certain many of the pioneers of this work at present could explain why! Especially, we would disagree that everyone here reads comics like ours. Ours are quite unique in format and just by appearance are unlike anything on the newsstands.

As far as content goes, we don't think you could find one comic in all of the ones done that doesn't obviously preach a message, which would usually be easily identifiable as Christian-oriented or political, possibly even more dangerous for foreigners to distribute in this politically turbulent country.

Most readers would definitely realise why they were being given this lit, and when you're dealing with campuses here, it's the most tightly surveilled sector of society. Frankly, we don't think it would be

very long at all before one found its way into the hands of the police whose job it would then be to round up and deport the unwanted group of proselytisers, be they "FOL", "COG" or any other name.

The entire work here was scrapped three times already to our knowledge and had to be repioneered again, due to lit distributing tactics.

"What good did it do our boys to go down to a certain country and distribute literature where it was forbidden? They said, 'But I'm obeying Jesus, I'm obeying Dad, and he said to litness!' But I said

For God's sake don't litness in countries like that! The old ways we used to do it are not going to work here in a new situation! We have got to do something entirely different!" (542:115,99)

"They just have to come and see our Family and how we live and see for themselves. And they know it's something different, they know it's something unusual. You don't have to give them any names, they don't even have to read the lit, they get the point, even in selah colonies." (567:17)

"So remember it is against the law in most Muslim countries for you to propagandise, proselytise, win converts, spread the word, especially to distribute literature, you just cannot do it openly. You can only sing and FF.

"Use wisdom and great caution! Do not litness nor witness openly! But it's perfectly legitimate to be a Christian and show your faith by your works'. 'Let your light so shine' (Ja. 2:18, Mt. 5:16).

"Just be a good sample and they

will get the point that we have something happy that they haven't, and it's Jesus! Amen!—Just love and FF them! Love never fails!" (709:44,47,49)

Well, these are quotes from Letters we've had to study over many times to realise that it's just not God's will to openly distribute or even openly witness in Muslim countries! And by experience, we've seen it's also very, very important that we don't expose that we belong to any international organised group. We feel it's really like Dad talks about it in "The Bait That Fell in Love With a Fish".

"But just one couple with children within the community may be more and more the thing in closed countries...Sooner or later under these selah conditions in closed countries where other types of litnessing and maybe even Colonies are forbidden, it's going to have to be considered the life work of our disciples to marry the local mates and thereby infiltrate the whole social structure as a witness." (552:62,64)

"It is you, you, that God's going to use to run the world, and He's getting you ready for it right now! But you had better keep your head pretty well underground now or it's going to get lopped off!" (542:113) Lord help us not to be proud or have a know-it-all attitude or something, but even the idea of approaching a virtual stranger and after only two brief meetings letting him know we have a group here, is the type of thing most Homes in Muslim areas have been trying to avoid for the last two years! It's just too risky!

We normally only reveal the fact